

HYDE HALL [a residence]
One and one-half miles
west of East Lake Road
East Springfield
Otsego County, New York

HABS No. NY 260

HABS
NY,
39-SPRIFE,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
120 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HYDE HALL [a residence]

HABS

N.Y.

39-5 PRIFE

Street Address or Location: One and one-half miles west of East Lake Road, East Springfield, Otsego County, New York

Present Owner: Mr. Thomas Clarke, RFD, Cooperstown, N.Y.

Brief Statement of Significance: The main part of this house was completed in 1815 in the Colonial style by George Clarke, a great grandson of the Colonial governor of New York.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: George Clarke; George Clarke, Jr.; George Hyde Clarke; Thomas Clarke
2. Date of erection: The main part of the house was completed in 1815 in the Colonial style - two stories high and 200 feet long. Later the present facade was added in the Empire style - 100 feet in length with two rooms on either side of a large entrance hall (1832).
3. Architect: Philip Hooker. The Clarke family have in their possession an elevation of the facade signed in ink, in the architect's handwriting, "Ph. Hooker."
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: Page 194, Philip Hooker by Edward W. Root, "Hooker devised 2 alternative schemes for the 1833 addition, one showing 2 stories and one showing 1 story in the upper portions." The second of these was adopted.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: In 1891 "that part of Hyde Hall which was left unfinished by George Clarke the elder, who constructed it at periods from 1816 to 1832, has just been finished by his grandson G. Hyde Clarke, the present occupant." (Freeman's Journal, June 4, 1891)
6. Important old views and references: Local History File in the New York State Historical Association at Cooperstown, New York. Photographs: 4 early exterior views; photographic plates that were used to illustrate Hyde Hall in the book Philip Hooker by Edward W. Root.

- B. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: Clarke family papers (George Clarke, the builder of Hyde Hall on Otsego Lake, was a great grandson of the Colonial governor of New York from 1737 to 1744.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. This two-story stone house has a portico with an attic and balcony and interesting interior woodwork and cove ceilings in dining-room and drawing-room.
2. Condition of fabric: Property for sale. Needs repair.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Foundations: Stone
2. Wall construction: Stone, quarried and cut in nearby quarries of the local limestone.
3. Chimneys: Six
4. Openings: a. Doorways and doors: There is not a curved moulding in the entablature constructed of stone. The portico with attic and balcony has an iron railing. Three columns composed of 14 lozenge-like pieces. High narrow door with high narrow windows on each side.
b. Windows and shutters: Inside shutters
5. Roof: Tin and tar paper

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Stairways: One stairway is of tiger maple.
2. Flooring: Brick floor in the old original kitchen.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls of stone, plastered and painted. Interior walls 25 inches thick. Cove ceilings in dining-room and salon. "Salon frieze was restored years ago at the instance of Stanford White, who found the old mould on the premises." Philip Hooker by Edward W. Root. In the 1832 portion all interior woodwork of butternut wood. These two rooms - dining and salon - are 22 feet high.
4. Lighting: Electricity in the southwest portion. Candles or lamps in the old sections.
5. Heating: Fireplaces

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Overlooking Otsego Lake, surrounded by old trees and forest land. Approached by three private roads. Gatehouse guards the entrance to one of these roads. (Region known as Hyde Bay) 3,000 acres. House faces southeast.

2. Outbuildings: Barns, carriage house, wash house, gate house, and covered bridge.

Prepared by F. Ward - October 1958